

January 2015

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Butte & Glenn Counties Walnut Day Meeting

February 6, 2015

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Art Center, Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, Chico

Agenda:

- 12:30 p.m. Sign in for PCA, CCA, and Grower Credits
- 1:00 p.m. **Laws and Regulations Update**
Richard Price, Butte County Agricultural Commissioner
- 1:30 p.m. **Nitrogen Use in Walnut**
Dr. Katherine Pope, UCCE Farm Advisor Yolo-Solano-Sacramento Cos.
- 2:00 p.m. **Botryosphaeria and Phomopsis Blight in Walnut**
Dr. Themis Michailides, UC Kearney Agricultural Center
- 2:30 p.m. **Scale Identification and Management**
Dr. Dani Lightle, UCCE Farm Advisor Glenn-Butte-Tehama Cos.
- 3:00 p.m. **Break**
- 3:30 p.m. **Walnut Board Update**
Dennis Balint, Executive Director, California Walnut Board
- 4:00 p.m. **Walnut Husk Fly**
Dr. Nicholas Mills, Environmental Sciences, UC Berkeley
- 4:30 p.m. **Minimal Pruning in Walnuts**
Dr. Bruce Lampinen, UCCE Walnut and Almond Specialist

2 CE credits requested (0.5 Laws and Regs, 1.5 Other, pending approval)

2.5 CCA credits approved

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Walnut Orchards Planted in 2014 - What to Do Now?

Janine Hasey, UCCE Farm Advisor, Sutter, Yuba, and Colusa Counties
Bruce Lampinen, UCCE Walnut Specialist, UC Davis

Many walnut orchards that were planted in 2014 grew well and attained ten feet or more of trunk growth. As of December 18, many of these orchards still have green leaves. The temperatures are predicted to finally drop which should hasten defoliation. With wet soils, trees will be less sensitive to damage if temperatures drop below freezing. Growers have questions about what to do with new orchards now and through the winter. There are steps that can be taken to alleviate freeze damage, winter kill, and uneven leafing in the spring.

I'm concerned about wind breakage. Should I prune my trees now?

If you're planning to prune your young walnut trees, wait to make any heading or thinning cuts until March when the threat of winter freezing temperatures has passed. Otherwise, freeze damage could occur lower on the trunk than if they were not pruned. If there is some breakage during strong winds, then a few trees get an early heading cut; this is far better than subjecting all trees to possibly more severe lower trunk freeze damage. If trees were tied loosely but securely to the stake so they can move and develop a stronger trunk during the growing season, they are less likely to break during high winds than trees tied tightly to the stake.

My young trees last year had uneven leafing – southwest buds broke later than north side buds. How can I prevent this?

Bud temperatures were measured last winter in a mature orchard and found to have greater fluctuation from day to night on the south and west sides versus the north and east sides. The winter was relatively warm, with little fog but many sunny days. This larger temperature change likely led to lower chill on the southwest side of the shoot causing uneven leafing (Figure 1). Uneven bud break was overcome where limbs were painted with white interior latex paint diluted 50 percent with water (Figure 2). For more information, see the May 2014 "Walnut news", <http://www.walnuts.org/walnut-industry/announcements/industry-newsletter-may-2014>.



Figure 1. Uneven growth on second leaf Howard walnut. South buds (to left) are just beginning to swell whereas north shoots have extensive growth. Photo by Bruce Lampinen, spring 2014.



Figure 2. Unheaded Chandler on Vlach showing the south buds (to left) emerging up to where trees were painted but not above where unpainted. Also note freeze damage on unpainted top. Photo by Bruce Lampinen, spring 2014.

We are recommending that growers paint or whitewash the southwest side of the trunk (as high up as possible) to minimize this problem. This will also protect tissue from being damaged in a freeze or from subsequent winter sunburn of affected limbs. It can be done before defoliation. Side shoots that will be thinned next spring do not need to be painted. Figures 3 through 5 describe this technique.



Figure 3. 15 gallon spray tank with electric pump mounted on an ATV to deliver 50/50 interior latex paint/water mix quickly.



Figure 4. Only the main trunk was painted on the southwest side to top of tree. The side shoot to the left will be thinned next March so is left unpainted.



Figure 5. Close-up showing only the southwest side (to the right) is painted on main trunk. Figures 3-5 by Janine Hasey, December 14, 2014.

Walnut Year-Round IPM Plan and Winter Orchard Pest Management Activities

Emily J. Symmes, UCCE Area IPM Advisor, Sacramento Valley

As we enter 2015, it is important to reflect on last season's crop and plan for the upcoming year. The Walnut Year-Round IPM Program (www.ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/C881/m881yi01.html) is a valuable resource for timing monitoring and pest management activities throughout the year.

Looking back at 2014 issues:

- *Botryosphaeria* (Bot) canker and blight continue to be a major concern for walnut growers.
- Scale populations have been on the rise in many orchards in recent years. The reported association of scale with Bot has resulted in increased management inputs for these pests.
- Higher than usual levels of navel orangeworm (NOW) were detected at harvest in many areas because of early season warm conditions that led to a larger fourth generation flight late in the season and an extended harvest period in fall.
- UC research is ongoing into these issues, and the results of 2014 studies will be made available in the coming months at UCCE walnut meetings and upcoming newsletter issues. The latest information can be obtained by contacting your local UCCE farm advisor.

Activities looking ahead: Critical pest management activities during the dormant period (January through early March).

Insect management:

- Sanitation and harvest timing are the two best methods to control NOW in walnuts. For NOW sanitation, assess mummy nut levels on the ground and in trees by the end of February. If mummy nuts remain in the orchard, remove and destroy them using a flail mower prior to mid-March. Removal of huller waste materials and cleaning out harvest equipment are also important to limit overwintering sites for NOW.
- Monitor for scale pests during the dormant period to determine the need for delayed-dormant or spring treatment. Examine scaffolds, limbs, branches, and prunings for walnut scale, frosted scale, European fruit lecanium, San Jose scale, and Italian pear scale. Look for emergence holes in scales to assess levels of parasitism. Map out areas of concern for possible treatments and spring monitoring. More information on delayed-dormant scale treatments will be available in the next issue (March 2015).

Weed management:

- Continue weed assessment in January or February to identify any newly emerging weeds or those that were not controlled by earlier treatments.
- Additional information for walnut winter weed surveys and link to a sample survey form can be found at www.ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/C881/m881dcweeds.html.

Save the date - upcoming walnut meetings

Meeting Name	Location	Date & Time
Young Almond & Walnut Orchard (0-5 years) Meeting	Woodland Community and Senior Center, 2001 East St., Woodland	January 16th, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
Tehama Walnut Day	Elks Lodge, 355 Gilmore Rd, Red Bluff	February 6th, 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Glenn & Butte Counties Walnut Day Meeting	Art Center, Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, Chico	February 6th, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
South Sacramento Valley Walnut Day	Veteran's Hall, 1425 Veterans Memorial Circle, Yuba City	February 25th, 12:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Walnut (7 year olds) No Pruning/ Pruning Comparison Field Meeting	Nickels Soil Lab, Greenbay Ave, Arbuckle	March 3rd, morning, Rain date: March 5th
Walnut (2 year olds) No Pruning / Pruning Comparison Field Meeting	Wheatland	March 3rd, afternoon Rain date: March 5th

****Please Note**** New this year, the traditional Butte & Glenn County Almond Institute / Walnut Day meeting has been split into two meetings!

Meeting	Location	Date & Time
Almond Institute	Chico Masonic Family Life Center, 1110 W. East Avenue, Chico	January 27th, 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Walnut Day	Art Center, Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, Chico	February 6th, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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